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21 April 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Deputy Director for Science and Technology

SUBJECT: Net Technical Assessment

1. This memorandum presents FMSAC's views on CIA participation in Net Technical Assessment studies. It outlines those considerations which we feel to be imperative if the CIA is to endorse and recommend such studies to the President.

2. The CIA role in Net Technical Assessment should be to provide all intelligence analysis and judgments. The requirements for intelligence should be levied on the CIA by a steering panel, and the Agency will then satisfy the requirements in-house or specify the most appropriate contractor to perform the analysis. All intelligence contractor analyses should be closely coordinated and monitored, and the completed studies approved by the CIA before dissemination to the DDR&E.

3. Net Technical Assessment studies should be the responsibility of the DDR&E, and could be performed by the contractor of his choice. The CIA again must monitor the analysis at selected intervals, however, to assure that the intelligence is being used and interpreted properly. This monitoring might even require a full time on-site CIA representative, depending on the type of study and the contractor involved.

4. There are a multitude of possible studies to be performed under Net Technical Assessment. Obviously, some order of priority must be established, and the CIA should be a full partner with the DDR&E in establishing these priorities. A steering panel should be established to set priorities, establish study input requirements, and review completed studies for a final endorsement. The CIA and DDR&E are the obvious choices for panel members. In addition, it might be well to consider having an individual from the NSC staff to serve as a panel member and help assure objectivity. The DIA should not be included in this panel because to do so would inevitably raise the problem of getting both CIA and DIA intelligence inputs, compromising differences, and complicating the whole process to the point that the value of such studies would be greatly diminished or lost.

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